

SYNTHESIS OF SENTENCES

A **complex sentence** consists of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

We can combine two **simple sentences** into a **single complex sentence**.

Study the examples given below.

Is there life on other planets?

We do not know as yet.

We can combine these two clauses into one.

We do not know as yet **if / whether there is life on other planets**.

Here the dependent clause ‘if there is life on other planets’ acts as the object of the verb know.

A dependent clause that acts as the subject or the object of a verb is a noun clause.

Another example is given below.

The accused was guilty.

He admitted this in court.

The accused admitted in court **that he was guilty**.

Here again, the dependent clause ‘that he was guilty’ acts as the object of the verb ‘admitted’.

Conversion of a complex sentence into a simple sentence

A complex sentence can be converted into a simple sentence by reducing a subordinate clause into a word or a phrase.

Study the following examples.

By reducing a noun clause into a phrase

A complex sentence can be converted into a simple sentence by reducing a noun clause into a noun phrase.

Complex: I know that he is an honest guy.

Simple: I know him to be an honest guy.

Complex: We could not figure out what he said.

Simple: We could not figure out the meaning of his words.

Complex: I believe that God exists.

Simple: I believe in God’s existence.

By reducing an adjective clause

Complex: Those that are helpless deserve our pity.

Simple: The helpless deserve our pity.

Complex: The statue that is made of marble was bought from Jaipur.

Simple: The marble statue was bought from Jaipur.

Complex: We saw trees that were laden with fruits.

Simple: We saw trees laden with fruits.

By reducing an adverb clause into a phrase

Complex: They took shelter under a tree because they were driven by the rain.

Simple: Driven by the rain, they took shelter under a tree.

Complex: He lost all hope because he was deceived by his own friends.

Simple: Deceived by his own friends, he lost all hope.

Exercise 1

Combine the following simple sentences into complex sentences.

1. Where does he live? That is a mystery.
2. We will have a good monsoon this year. The meteorologists expect this.
3. The project will be abandoned. That is certain.
4. We visited the deer park. Buddha preached his first sermon here.
5. His younger son is in the US. He is a professor at a prestigious university.

Answers

1. **Where he lives** is a mystery.
2. The meteorologists expect **that we will have a good monsoon this year**.
3. It is certain **that the project will be abandoned**.
4. We visited the deer park **where Buddha preached his first sermon**.
5. His younger son, **who is in the US**, is a professor at a prestigious university.



Exercise 2: Combine the following sentences using an appropriate conjunction.

1. He is snobbish. I like him.
2. My mother attended the wedding. My father attended the wedding.
3. He has walked five miles. It is possible that he is tired.
4. I went to the shop. I bought a watch.
5. You must be quiet. You must leave the room.
6. The prisoner fell down on his knees. He begged for mercy.
7. I left home early. I could not get to work on time.
8. Azim works hard. Kabir works harder.
9. You must start at once. You will be late.
10. You are not interested in this offer. I know it.

Answers

1. **Though** he is snobbish, I like him.
2. **Both** my mother **and** father attended the wedding. / Both my parents attended the wedding.
3. He has walked five miles, **so** he must be tired. / He must be tired **because** he has walked five miles.
4. I went to the shop **and** bought a watch.
5. You must be quiet **or** you must leave the room.
6. The prisoner fell down on his knees **and** begged for mercy.
7. **Though** / **although** I left home early, I could not get to work on time.
8. Azim works hard **but** Kabir works harder. / Kabir works harder **than** Azim.
9. You must start at once **or** you will be late.
10. I know **that** you are not interested in this offer.

Exercise for Practice

Convert each of the following complex sentences into simple sentences.

1. He sold the house that belonged to his father.
2. I have no money that I can lend you.
3. The marks that were left by the whip are still visible.
4. He prospered by the money he inherited from his father.
5. A man who is dead has no worries.

Answers

1. He sold his father's house.
2. I have no money to lend you.
3. The marks left by the whip are still visible.
4. He prospered by his father's money.
5. A dead man has no worries.